

Downtown Business Improvement District of Missoula

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2017 from 3-5 pm at the DMP Office

PRESENT: Dan Cederberg, Carma Gilligan, Ellen Buchanan, Scott Stearns, Charlie Beaton, Kirk Bodlovik

ABSENT: Tim France

STAFF: Linda McCarthy, Sarah Ferguson, Robert Giblin

- 1. MEETING COMMENCEMENT & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & PUBLIC COMMENT:** Amy, Will Gardner, Sam with the homeless outreach team introduced themselves. The board went around and did self-introductions for the representatives from the Poverello Center.

ACTION ITEMS

- 2. Presentation & Discussion on/with Homeless Outreach Team:** Amy Allison Thompson, Poverello (Pov.) Center Executive Director, began by asking how many people had been to the Pov and proceeded to walk the board through a presentation on homelessness and what the mission of the Pov. is. Emergency Food has been established since 1974. If someone comes into the shelter, the Pov. provides some basic services such as: toiletries, emergency clothing, laundry service, mail service, phone service, medical services, support groups like AA, educational classes with a computer lab, individual intake, community resource, and referral groups. Men and women can reside at the shelter up to 45 days. The average stay is about 26 days. The Grocery Rescue Program is a fulltime staff person who drives around Missoula picking up food from restaurants and stores. The program rescues about 1,400 lbs. of unused food per day. The sack lunch program is something that people can get at the front desk of the Pov. There is also a daily food pantry. 400-500 meals per day are served in the kitchen. The next program is the Medical Respite Program which provides beds at the shelter after being released from the hospital. This helps reduce the use of the emergency rooms. This is in collaboration with St. Patrick's Hospital and Partnership Health Center. Veterans Programming includes: Homeless Vet Program, Housing Montana Heroes which is on the 2nd floor of the Pov., and the Valor House which is a property located off of Mullan. Vets are able to stay at the Valor house up to 24 months. After 12 months, they receive a voucher for housing. The last program Thompson spoke of was the Homeless Outreach Team. The people involved in this program are: pov staff, trained volunteers, University of Montana Master's of Social Work students, Sociology Service Learning students, MSU Nursing students, and Missoula Interfaith Collaborative volunteers. The vision of the HOT is to bridge the gap between chronically homeless and the community. The number one goal is to build positive trusting relationships with members of the community and to help the homeless get positive and permanent housing. The goals also include: identifying barriers to service, deterring ER services, building relationships, providing education about the abilities and limitations of service providers. Gardner spoke about ways they are

connecting with the homeless and also helping the businesses in the community. Stack asked if they work with the Downtown Police presence and Gardner responded that yes, they do usually about 1-2 calls a week. There is a hotline as an alternative to calling 911, 406-493-7955. This is helpful to mediate situations that are not emergencies. Thompson went through the places the HOT usually frequent. Thompson spoke about the “good neighbor policy” which means they cannot violate the law at their neighbor businesses without losing their ability to use the shelter’s services. The 2016 HOT Stats included: 81 outreach contacts with businesses and partners, 1,944 face-to-face contacts with 308 unduplicated homeless individuals, 339 hotline calls, 9 formerly homeless individuals actively supported in permanent housing. Buchanan asked what housing options were available. There are the Equinox apartments run by Tamarack Properties as a low income rent option, the MHA waiting list, and homeward. McCarthy asked if the hotels that have weekly rates are being used. One of their clients does live at the Sleepy Inn and it’s not ideal because he has to spend his entire check almost on having the room for the month, but it is a happy story because he was chronically homeless and now has stayed in this housing situation for the past 2 years. Stearns asked if Missoula is a victim of our resources for all of our homeless outreach and resources. Thompson said she did not see it that way. The homeless that they see are mostly the same faces that have been around the streets for a long time and most of them are from Missoula. There is a push for coordinated entry system by implementing a 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness, ending chronic & veteran homelessness in Missoula, creating a systematize, prioritized approach to ending homelessness by evaluating the vulnerability of each person identified as homeless and the most vulnerable will be placed in housing. This will begin in June. The priorities will change from the “cream of the crop” to the most vulnerable. Thompson showed the board several agencies and cities who have implemented the CES approach to chronic homelessness and had great success.

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McCarthy asked if the HOT can take people to Frenchtown. McCarthy said that in Advocacy there were reports people were being fed in the alley. A conversation around the incident ensued. McCarthy asked about the circumstances why people would be fed on the street. It is part of the Sack Lunch Program. Thompson said she has implemented a schedule for the HOT to stop into businesses. Gardner reported that the response from business owners runs the gamut. Thompson reported that there have been no incidents of bed bugs in the past 2 years and they will not be renting out the equipment for bed bugs and lice. Cederberg asked the members if the HOT had an estimate of the chronic homeless that tend to be aggressive? There are about 10-15. McCarthy asked if a travel/treatment fund would be helpful. It absolutely would be helpful, but it would have to happen fast and it would usually have to happen for someone who was in a super desperate situation. The other problem is that most of these folks are from Missoula so they are home. Buchanan asked if there was a need for funding supplementation for rent. Thompson said absolutely and she also feels we need somewhere for these people to be during the day. She feels tiny homes and wet housing is also a great option. McCarthy asked how long Gardner and Sam had been with the program and why, Gardner has been with the HOT for a year and a half. Sam has worked in the shelter for 2 years and has worked for HOT for a month. Thompson told the board any feedback that they have or questions they come up with, to please feel free to bring them to the Pov’s attention. Thompson said they need toilet paper, cleaning supplies, cleaning wipes. Any donation can be dropped off at the front desk. Cederberg asked if the funding for the Vets has worked out okay. The

funding has worked out great for both of the veteran programs. The Pov. has had to recently reapply for all of their VA funding. Buchanan said to let the BID know how they can help bridge the gaps.

4. **Review & Approval of Proposed FY2017-2018 Budget:** Giblin reported that the narrative needs to be approved by the BID and then put forth for approval to the City. The financial summary has a total of \$410,115 for the FY2017 and \$457,737 for FY17-18 proposed budget. Buchanan moved approval of amended document. Cederberg seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
5. **Review & Approval of Proposed Clean Team Contract:** Fridays have been cut from the days of service. The contract went from \$4,876 per month to \$3,900 per year. There are some changes in scope of service: removing snow from solar panels on parking meters, the clean team is not responsible for removal of human waste at any time. Cederberg moved to approve. Beaton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.
6. **Approval of Minutes:** Buchanan moved to approve, Beaton seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

NON-ACTION ITEMS

7. **Finance Report:** There is not a lot to report for in March. The tax assessment was \$2,065.60 in the month of March. There was business as usual in the month of March. Cash flow perspective shows that there is about \$143,000. There should be about \$60,000 that should rollover into the next fiscal year. There was no Visa bill in March. The proposed budget for FY17-18 was discussed by Giblin. He said there should be \$305,000 in tax assessment, the City Garbage Contract is plugged in at \$61,000. There is a difference in Administration because Business Development has its own line item. The salaries line has changed as well because the board will no longer be paying into Laurie's salary. McCarthy asked if the board was still comfortable supporting the HOT with a \$5,000 contribution, all agreed they were. There is also a line item that the BID would kick-in to help redo the website this year. Cederberg voiced his concern that he is skeptical of the need to redo the website. A discussion on the website and the need to update it ensued. McCarthy said she will invite Kristen Sackett to the next board meeting to discuss the website update. The BID has been asked to reinvest in signal boxes. There should be a request at next month's meeting. There is \$4,000 for refurbishing trash cans. There is a line item for \$48,000 for Community Development position and they would just need to find get the program and position going.
8. **State of Downtown Lunch with City & County:** Wed., April 19 from 12-1:30 pm at A Public House: is tomorrow and McCarthy would like the board to be there. She sent an agenda around the room. McCarthy explained what she would like to see addressed at the luncheon.
9. **Downtown BID Ratepayer Lunch:** Wed., April 26 from 11:30am-1 pm at Missoula Children's Theatre: McCarthy reported the BID ratepayer luncheon is next Wednesday. She passed around the agenda for the luncheon. She asked Beaton to participate in a presentation. So far the RSVPs numbers are really low. The Downtown Video and the Master Plan presentation will be showing in the background.
10. **BID Board Development:** McCarthy reported that Bodlovik and Cederberg will be coming to the end of their terms at the end of May. Cederberg reported that he will be moving his office out of downtown and he's not sure if it would be appropriate to stay on the board. He will continue to seek feedback on this matter. He is interested in staying on if it seemed appropriate to others. Bodlovik will be staying on. The board would like to him to stay on as well.

11. **MDAC Representation for Downtown Business:** Now that Laurie Johnson is gone, the BID needs another representative. Cederberg shared with the group that MDAC is currently working on getting a Native American presence on the board, developing detox facilities, over-serving penalties, and travel and treatment fund. A discussion on a travel and treatment fund ensued. There was conversation on striking the balance between helping and enabling people. A discussion on the mental health issue regarding the homeless in Missoula ensued. McCarthy feels it is necessary to have a strong representation on the board so she asked that someone volunteer or to put forth names that McCarthy should speak to.
12. **DMP:** nothing to report
MDA: attempting to gather all of the sponsorships needed for our events this summer. Dues collection is ongoing. The next big event is Garden City BrewFest on Saturday, May 6.
MDF: License plate check came in for over \$2,800 for just the month of March. Missoula Gives is now on May 4 & 5.
13. **Mission Reports:**
Clean: Clean team stats are in the board packet, policing stats also included. McCarthy said Officer Moore is very frustrated with the position and the reach they are able to take with cleaning up the streets.
Safe: Officer More might be moving to weekends, and the new officers would be staggered throughout the week so that someone is on seven days a week. A discussion the Jail Diversion program ensued. Cederberg said that Education, Compassion, and Consequences need to be in place to address the issue of problem individuals.
Business Development: Nothing to report
Marketing: Nothing to report
Master Plan: Continued discussion about the conversion of 4 lanes to 3 lanes on Higgins and the need to support that. Discussion also centered on the Higgins Ave Bridge widening. Losing University representative on that committee.
14. **Announcements & New Business:** Bitterroot Trail Bridge opening is April 29. Leased parking Downtown will go up \$10/month in garages and \$5/month everywhere else. This is the first time in 12 years the rates have risen. The use of the App is increasing substantially.
15. Executive Session (if necessary):
16. Trustee Comments & Meeting Adjournment :

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 pm